

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS
OF THE SEASON'S
LATEST BOOKS

A Subtle Analysis of Racial Differences—Ellis P. Butler Pictures Western Religious Life.
Fiction by Irvin S. Cobb, Arthur B. Reeve and Others—New Editions of Classics—Practical Books.

MR. CUSHING AND MILE. DU CHATEL. (John Lane Company.) By Frances Ramsey. (\$1.40.)
This is a story of great subtlety. It analyzes racial and individual differences. Here is young Mr. Cushing in a Paris post office. He has just com-

posed a telegraphic message to be sent to his sister in New York: "Shall not tell just yet. Remain for important reasons. Am engaged to be married to Anne-Marie du Chateau." If he had left out the "to be married" the language of the message would have been good American; his sister—to employ a phrase sanctioned by Mr. Howells—would have "caught on." We cannot help feeling that he was willing to pay extra cable tolls in order to avoid what many regard as a vulgar abbreviation.

The coming of Mrs. Herring to buy postage stamps led to a conversation which will excite the reader's curiosity. What was Mrs. Herring to him or he to Mrs. Herring? One plain thing stands out amid plenty that is elusive: while Mrs. Herring talked and Cushing's stamps to her letters she read Cushing's telegram to his sister. She knew beyond doubt the important step that Cushing had in contemplation.

Cushing could differentiate the impressions felt in passing from one quarter of Paris into another. He knew the sentiments entertained by the old lawyer, Maître Duclos, regarding his own point of view, though the lawyer politely refrained from declaring them in words. The man of law was entirely affable. Still "Cushing was clearly able to see that this affability was only the outward sign of a point of view immutably sure of itself. Throughout the talk he felt himself re-



Ellis P. Butler, author of "Domine Dean." (Revell.)



Irvin S. Cobb, author of "Those Times and These." (Doran.)

garded as nothing more than an alien." It is fine to be able to be immutably sure of a point of view and at the same time polite. What is told of Cushing's visit to the principal young lady in the case, after the visit to the lawyer, will continue the reader's interest in this nice analysis of places and of persons. The story throughout is a very skilful performance.

DOMINIE DEAN. (Fleming H. Revell Company.) By Ellis P. Butler. (\$1.35.)

With photographic fidelity Ellis Parker Butler in *Domine Dean* (Fleming H. Revell Company) reproduces the religious life in a small Western town in the days of his youth. Though the scene is where the Mississippi flows by the Iowa shore and the time is chiefly that of the civil war and the following years, the incidents are such as may occur in any church and the characters in their essentials may be recognized in every congregation. There is a humorous touch in many of the occurrences and in many of the people, but the impression left is a sorrowful one, for the hero, straightforward and unworldly as he is, is wretchedly underpaid while he can work and is cast off almost without a penny when he grows old. The author has the end in mind throughout the story; he wishes to protest against the treatment of old ministers, and this gives a touch of sadness to the earlier years also; however hopeful the signs he knows what is going to happen. The three women who make the hero's life happy are very well drawn and the war memories are truthful. It is a conscientious and unusual piece of work that reads like the rather indignant commentary on a real life.

THE GOOD GIRL. (Small, Maynard & Co.) By Vincent O'Sullivan. (\$1.50.)

While the English style and the painstaking detail of Vincent O'Sullivan's *The Good Girl* (Small, Maynard & Co.) may justify its inclusion in the Farnsworth of British decencies, there seems to be little value in it as an exercise in moral psychology. The hero is a weak minded, spiritless creature, with a good deal of money, who prefers to live in the clouds. It seems unfair to attribute his faults to his mother's narrow-mindedness and his own unfair to blame anything in Jansenism or puritanism for them. He falls in love with a woman who sings in a concert and after a long period of mooning is introduced to her. She is the wife of an impecunious swindler and adventurer, an exaggeration of Thackeray's favorite Irish blackguards and the stepmother of an unattractive girl, devoid of manners or principles. The three set to work to fleece the hero; to be near the woman he adores he marries the girl, who in spite of her extravagance and wildness loves him. His ideals keep him away from his idol for a long time, when they fall she yields to him as she might have at the beginning. When the girl discovers this she runs off. The adventurer and his wife strip the hero of nearly everything he has; then they disappear. The girl meanwhile, die wretchedly in Paris; the hero buries her, saves enough to live poorly in an Italian village and spends his time thinking about the whole business. It is a tale of the peculiarly sordid nature

that passes for realism in some literary circles.

THOSE TIMES AND THESE. (George H. Doran Company.) By Irvin S. Cobb. (\$1.35.)

When he falls back on his Kentucky memories Irvin S. Cobb generally strikes the right note, and in the ten stories contained in *Those Times and These* (George H. Doran Company) Judge Priest and the rest of his Confederate cronies predominate and Mr. Cobb is at his best. One or two more modern tales serve to bring out more strongly the genuineness of the sentiment and the humor of the Southern tales.

THE LIVERY OF EVE. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.) By F. W. Bais. (\$1.50.)

Those who have enjoyed the poetry and the Oriental charm of F. W. Bais's remarkable Hindu tales will welcome a new story *The Livery of Eve* (G. P. Putnam's Sons), which is more distinctly humorous than its predecessors. As usual a sarcastic divinity relates it to his spouse and makes fun of her while telling it. It is one of the oldest of all stories, that of woman's deceiving trusting man and making him do what she wishes him to. She is a sprightly water nymph and is very enticing. The author is tempted occasionally to allude to Western affairs.

THE GUN BRAND. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.) By James B. Hendryx. (\$1.50.)

A determined young woman with plenty of means decides in James B. Hendryx's *The Gun Brand* (G. P. Putnam's Sons) to set matters right in the Canadian northland and especially to see that the Indians are properly treated as humans. She carries out a deceitful and criminal half breed, who is responsible for most of the wrongdoing in the territory, and is prejudiced by the cavemen virtues. The young woman treats him with as much tenderness as frankness, she carries out her wrong ideas with great energy and makes a painful mess of everything she undertakes until the truth is pounded into her head and she throws herself into the hero's arms. There is an abundance of brutal behavior in this tale, to suit the modern taste in outdoor fiction.

KIEATH. (Small, Maynard & Co.) By Madge Macbeth. (\$1.35.)

A romance of the early days of Dawson is related by Madge Macbeth in *Kieath* (Small, Maynard & Co., Boston). The hero, who gives his name to the story, is a skilled mechanic employed to work the first prototype machine in the town. He can also open safes and pick locks. He behaves with the utmost propriety, makes friends with the owner of a dance hall, his charming daughter and various picturesque characters. He thrashes a bully, a criminal escapes from the United States. After a time a robbery and murder is fastened upon him, which is solved in a melodramatic manner, freeing him from domestic entanglements and enabling him to marry the girl he loves.

THE YUKON TRAIL. (Houghton Mifflin Company.) By William MacLeod Raine. (\$1.35.)

The conflict between civilized standards of honesty and decency and those of pioneer communities is the theme of William MacLeod Raine's *The Yukon Trail* (Houghton Mifflin Company). The hero is a Government in-

spector sent to investigate the facts concerning land and mining claims in Alaska. He is opposed by an energetic promoter, who is absolutely unscrupulous in employing criminal methods in attaining his objects and who has the backing of a rich and powerful syndicate and is admired by the whole territory. The Alaskans wish to have the country opened and developed as soon as possible and do not care how dishonest or rapacious the man who carry out the improvements may be. The hero has a hard time in bringing his opponent to book and even then he escapes punishment. The troubles are complicated by a young woman whom both men want and by the intrigues of other ladies. There is plenty of excitement in the tale.

A LOVE TANGLE. (E. P. Dutton & Co.) By F. E. Penny. (\$1.50.)

A lovely young girl in F. E. Penny's *A Love Tangle* (E. P. Dutton & Co.) takes great interest in the natives around her. Having been brought up in India, she understands their feelings and ways of thinking better than the other whites. She attracts a young Hindu official educated in England, whose troubles lend the story its chief interest. The national characteristics break out in him from time to time, and the ideals acquired in Europe conflict with the demands of his family and of others of his race. His love for the girl enables him to keep faith with the English and to act like a man when the crisis in his life comes. A Hindu girl with a European education does not stand the test. The English girl fortunately does not love the Hindu youth and the unpleasant possibility of a mixed marriage permeates the whole story. Its value lies in the pictures of native life and of native ideas under the veneer of British institutions.

THE GIRL BY THE ROADSIDE. (The Macaulay Company.) By Varick Vanard. (\$1.35.)

The hero of Varick Vanard's *The Girl by the Roadside* (The Macaulay Company, New York) has physical vigor enough to lug 130 pounds of lovely and helpless young womanhood a mile through Virginia mud to an isolated bungalow. There the two are imprisoned for a week by themselves and thus become acquainted with each other and fall in love. So far the story is satisfactorily entertaining. Then the young woman becomes involved with counterfeiters and secret service men, and the story turns to a series of dashes across country by themselves in automobiles and steamboats, with much excitement till the pair are united after a complete explanation.

THE TREASURE TRAIN. (Harpers.) By Arthur B. Reeve. (\$1.35.)

Once more Arthur B. Reeve's scientific detective Craig Kennedy is employed in *The Treasure Train* (Harpers) to solve the solution of a dozen mysteries. In all the same process employed; after a more or less lucid statement of the problem the detective evolves an elaborate scientific lecture and in the last paragraph suddenly points to the least likely person as the criminal. In most instances the author takes pains to conceal any possible motive on the guilty person's part. The most satisfactory of these tales are those dealing with the West Indies, where geography takes the place of doubtful chemistry.

MESSAGERS OF EVIL. (Brentano's.) By Pierre Souvestre and Marcel Allain. (\$1.35.)

The chase after the elusive criminal Fantomas is kept up by the eager journalist and the dismissed detective through a third series of crimes in *Messengers of Evil*, by Pierre Souvestre and Marcel Allain (Brentano's). The story progresses with the same comic liveliness that characterizes modern French tales of crime and the criminal continues to make sensational exits like Arsene Lupin. The translation is very slovenly.

RIMROCK JONES. (W. J. Watt & Co.) By Dane Coolidge. (\$1.35.)

A determined and capable stenographer takes charge of the affairs of an unruly child of nature in Dane Coolidge's *Rimrock Jones* (W. J. Watt & Co., New York). What with drink, yielding to uncontrolled impulse and total lack of sense, he combines all the defects of the primitive heroes of Western fiction to a degree that strains the reader's sympathy. He learns little from experience and prefers to use violence rather than heed the mining laws of Arizona, which are represented as being inequitable to honest miners. His conduct in New York arouses greater knowledge of men than he shows in the West, but is far from laudable. He clearly needs a guardian or a jailer, and the clear headed stenographer who rescues him from the messes he gets into promises to be his domestic life will be arranged according to her dictates.

BEHIND THE THICKET. By W. E. B. Henderson

N. Y. Tribune says: Mr. Henderson's work reaches a standard of excellence not often approximated in current fiction, and in this regard the climax of the plot it stands unsurpassed. \$1.50 net. Postage extra. All bookstores. E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 5th Ave., N. Y.

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ANTI-CONSCRIPTIONISTS. By THEODOSIA GARRISON of the Vigilantes.

Surely, they shall not shame us over-long— These feeble whiners in the market place Striving with all perverted will to wrong The land that gives them housing of its grace.

These be the raging waves Christ's servant saw Breaking in foam against a rock most strong— These would be wreckers of a righteous law— Surely, they shall not shame us over-long.

What need for answer! Near and far to-day Youth, Courage, Honor to their colors And those disloyal who would bar the way— Thank God that, with all confidence we "Surely, they shall not shame us over-long."

AVAILABLE CLASSICS. Loeb Greek and Latin Texts.

The new additions to the invaluable "Loeb Classical Library," which is gradually bringing within the grasp of scholars the whole body of Greek and Latin literature, are at the same time making it accessible to the general reader by means of competent translations facing the original texts, are of unusual interest. To the Latin section Prof. Frank Justus Miller of the University of Chicago contributes an edition and a translation of all of Seneca's *Tragedies*, in two volumes, with introduction, notes and comparisons with the Greek tragedies on the same subjects. A curiosity in the Greek section is the *Chitophon and Leucippe of Achilles Tatius*, a novel which the discoveries in Egypt have established as not later than the third century after Christ, in the translation of S. Gaselee of Cambridge University. With this come the first of eight volumes of *The Geography of Strabo*, in the translation of Prof. Horace Leonard Jones, based in part on the unfinished version of the late Prof. John R. S. Searrett, both of Cornell University, and the second of the five volumes of *The Greek Anthology*, translated by W. R. Paton, which contains the apocryphal epigrams. The library is published by William Heinemann and G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The Dent Reprints.

War conditions have interfered somewhat with the many beautiful cheap editions manufactured by J. M. Dent and Sons (P. Dutton & Co.). The two volumes that have lately been added to the "Wayfarer's Library" will be therefore unusually welcome. One is the delightful book by Clement K. Shorter on *The Brontës and Their Circle*; the other short literary essays from the *London Star*, nearly all of which touch in some way on the present war, called *Pebbles on the Shore* (50 cents each).

New Editions and Translations.

The works of an English worthy who is quoted and referred to much more than he is read have been edited and annotated by two Princeton scholars, Morris William Croll and Harry Clemons, John Lyly's *Euphues*, the text both of *The Anatomy of Wit* and *Euphues and His England* (George Routledge & Sons; E. P. Dutton & Co.). Dr. Croll provides a comprehensive introduction; the text has been carefully prepared and has been equipped with all the apparatus that modern scholarship calls for. This edition is likely to be the standard for long time to come; it is certainly the most accessible for Lyly's work (\$2.25).

The edition of *The Caedmon Poems* by Dr. Charles W. Kennedy of Princeton (George Routledge & Sons; E. P. Dutton & Co.) is different in this respect, that a translation into English prose takes the place of the Anglo-Saxon text. The author prefixes an adequate and scholarly introduction; he appends the curious illustrations of Genesis found in the Junius manuscript, which are explained by Prof. C. R. Morey of Princeton. (\$2.25.)

Three of the most important works of Jan van Ruysbroeck, the medieval Flemish mystic, have been translated from the original Flemish by C. A. Wynschenck Dom, under the title *The Mirror of the Spiritual Marriage* (George Routledge & Sons; E. P. Dutton & Co.), and provided with an introduction by Evelyn Underhill. (\$1.75.)

Enthusiasm for T. Lucretius Carus has helped Prof. William Ellery Leonard of the University of Wisconsin to persevere in the task of turning his great work into English verse, *Of the Nature of Things* (J. M. Dent & Sons; E. P. Dutton & Co.). The translation is marked by accuracy rather than poetic merit, for Prof. Leonard's purpose was to render the exact meaning of the great philosopher. The metrical form seemed convenient to him. It is the latest presentation in English of the ideas of a thinker who has had great influence on men's minds. (\$1.75.)

One of the earliest of Spanish picturesque romances, which has served as a model for many successors in Spanish and in other languages, *The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes*, which modern scholarship has made anonymous, has been translated into English by Louis How and provided with an interesting introduction by Charles Philip Wagner. (\$1.50.)

AIDS TO KNOWLEDGE. The Archaeological Harvest.

Though the primary object of the Rev. Dr. Camden M. Coburn in *The New Archaeological Discoveries* (Funk and Wagnalls Company) is to show what light has been cast on the New Testament and on our knowledge of the early Christian church by the material obtained by excavations in Egypt, in Asia and in other lands in recent years, his interest in the scientific results of what he digresses to tell in full all that was discovered in each investigation, whether it is of religious importance or not. His book is in consequence a complete survey of all that has been won by archaeologists in the last generation, explained in popular language to laymen. The account of what we have learned from the Egyptian papyri is very full and up to date. It will take a generation to decipher all that have been already stored away, while the possibility of new acquisitions, after this war is over, remains. More distinctly limited to the explanation of the New Testament, is the account of the gleanings

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Bible Translations.

On the conclusion of the great undertaking that has engaged his attention for many years Max L. Margolis, the last general director of the Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, begins with the translations in early times and the Hebrew into the other languages spoken by the Jews of Palestine, tells of all later versions to the time of the Reformation and then describes thoroughly all the translations into English and the chief versions in other European languages and enumerates the countless versions in savage dialects and tongues that the Bible societies have turned out. It is a thorough and scholarly essay.

The National Parks.

The many booklets in which Enos A. Mills has described the individual national parks are joined in one vol-

ume together with new matter in *Your National Parks* (Houghton Mifflin Company). The text describes the natural beauties of each park and is helped out by fine photographs. The appendix contains the needed guidebook information about routes, hotels, prices and so on, including good maps. The author makes a plea for further specific reservations and adds descriptions of Canada's parks (\$1.50.)

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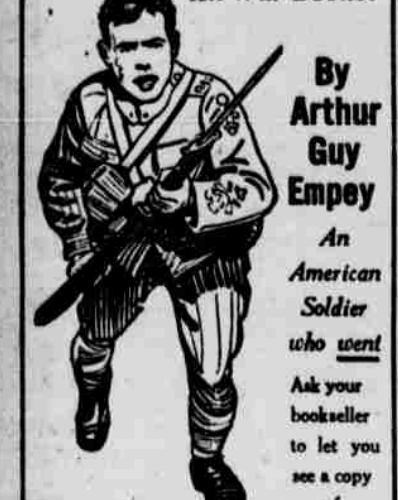
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